THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

175

ideals." We idealize self-sacrifice not
selfish-
ness industry not lust, kindness not
cruelty
liberty not habit. We speak it is true.
of artis-
tic ideals : but these are. in fact.
hardly com-
parable with the ideals which have led
human
society up the path of progress. We
mav reflect
upon the thought that these impulses
are engorsed
verv markedly by Christian doctrine-
mav. in-
deed. be described as fundamental
principles of
unsophisticated Christianity. There
is not a
point in our contrast between Life
and Matter
and Matter but is authoritatively endorsed by
texts of
Scripture. To "do unto others as we
would that
they should do unto us I is an ideal
expression of
the social instinct. Upon the impulse
to
is grafted man's hope of immortality and of the ultimate redress of this world's
immortality and of
the ultimate redress of this world's
injustice:
and. if no encouragement is given to
the amassing
of wealth, industry is not dishonoured:
Idborare
est or are is a maxim of the Church. The
heart of
Christ was aglow with kindness for all
men.
during the cruellest ages of
Christendom some
reflections of this glow were caught by
those who
turned their faces towards Him: ideas
of kindness
inspired St. Paul with one of his
sublimest ex-
hortations: unless they were instinct
with kind-
ness. his zeal and eloquence. he
confessed. were
as sounding brass or a tinkling
cymbal. And.
whatever be the opinion of modern

divines. selfhardening into restraint. actual asceticism. has undoubtedly been sanctified by the example of the teaching of His Christ and apostles. In the character of our Lord the impulses irradiate humanity with supernatural lustre. face was set against the morality of habit. towards the spontaneous flowerings of will. He was vehemently opposed to the ordered sanctimonv of convinced selfrighteousness, strong